

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 5, 7-9 and 20, cancel claims 10-14 and 22-45, and add new claims 46-61 as set forth below.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A lifting device in a recreational vehicle comprising:
a frame ;
a first lifting mechanism ~~an acme screw rotatably secured~~ along a vertical length of ~~to~~ said frame;
a second lifting mechanism secured along a vertical length of said frame;
a distribution mechanism coupled to a top end of said first lifting mechanism and a top end of said second lifting mechanism for transferring motive force to said first lifting mechanism and said second lifting mechanism;
~~a primary acme nut threaded onto said acme screw; and~~
a first bracket assemblage slidably disposed on said frame; said first bracket assemblage engaged with said first lifting mechanism to adjust a height of said first bracket assemblage; ~~sized and shaped so as to support and constrain rotation of said primary acme nut thereby requiring said bracket assemblage to slide when said acme screw is rotated;~~
a second bracket assemblage slidably disposed on said frame; said second bracket assemblage engaged with said second lifting mechanism to adjust a height of said second bracket assemblage;
said first bracket assemblage and said second bracket assemblage coupled to a first bed bracket sized for supporting a bed; ~~having a payload flange for supporting a bed;~~

a third bracket assemblage slidably disposed on said frame;
a fourth bracket assemblage slidably disposed on said frame; and
a second bed bracket sized to support a bed and coupled to said third bracket assemblage and said fourth bracket assemblage;
wherein said first bed bracket is movable between a lowered position within said vehicle and raised, stowed position within said vehicle
~~said bracket assemblage movable between a first user-accessible position and a second storage position.~~

2. (Withdrawn) The lifting device of claim 1, further comprising a secondary acme nut threaded onto said acme screw, said secondary acme nut positioned relative to said primary acme nut so as to support said payload in the event of failure of said primary acme nut.
3. (Withdrawn) The lifting device of claim 2, wherein said secondary acme nut is located below said primary acme nut.
4. (Withdrawn) The lifting device of claim 2, wherein said secondary acme nut is located above said primary acme nut.
5. (Currently Amended) The lifting device of claim 1, wherein said first lifting mechanism comprises a first acme screw rotatably disposed to said frame and wherein said second lifting mechanism comprises a second acme screw rotatably disposed to said frame. ~~said first user-accessible position is proximal to a floor of said vehicle and said second storage position is adjacent a ceiling of said vehicle.~~
6. (Withdrawn) The lifting device of claim 1, wherein said payload is a fifth wheel trailer.

7. (Currently Amended) The lifting device of claim 5, wherein said first bracket assemblage further comprises a first captured nut engaged with said first acme screw; and wherein said second bracket assemblage further comprises a second captured nut engaged with said second acme screw ~~further comprising indicia of failure of said primary acme nut.~~

8. (Currently Amended) The lifting device of claim 1, wherein said distribution mechanism comprises a chain coupled to an upper end of said first lifting mechanism and said second lifting mechanism. ~~further comprising a hand crank coupled to said acme screw.~~

9. (Currently Amended) The lifting device of claim 1, wherein said distribution mechanism comprises a rotatably mounted shaft coupled to an upper end of said first lifting mechanism and said second lifting mechanism. ~~further comprising an electric motor coupled to said acme screw.~~

10-14. (Canceled)

15. (Withdrawn) A method of lifting a payload in a recreational vehicle comprising:
providing a payload support bracket on a framework in said vehicle;
causing linear movement of said payload support bracket up and down said framework solely by rotational movement of a screw mounted substantially along the length of an actuation region of said framework; and,
holding said screw linearly stationary during its rotational movement.

16. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 15, wherein said linear movement is caused by providing a nut on said payload support bracket and by engaging said nut with said screw and by holding said nut rotationally stationary during the rotation of said screw.

17. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 16, further comprising viewing failure indicia associated with said framework so as to determine whether the causation of linear movement has failed.

18. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 16, further comprising preventing failure of said payload support bracket by providing a secondary support system on aid framework.

19. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 18, wherein providing a secondary support system includes providing a primary nut for causing linear movement of said payload support bracket and a second nut for supporting said payload support bracket in the event said primary nut fails.

20. (Currently Amended) The lifting device of claim 1, further comprising an elongated flexible support secured to said frame and said first bed bracket ~~payload flange of said bracket assemblage~~.

21. (Withdrawn) The lifting device of claim 1, further comprising a safety latch, said safety latch positioned and configured to provide additional support to said payload.

22-45. (Canceled)

46. (New) A bed lifting device for a recreational vehicle comprising:

a first vertical support bracket having a first elongated vertical length;

a first lifting mechanism located along said first elongated vertical length of said first vertical support bracket;

a first lifting bracket slidably engaged with said first vertical support bracket and supported by said first lifting mechanism;

a second vertical support bracket having a second elongated vertical length;

a second lifting mechanism located along said second elongated vertical length of said second vertical support bracket;

a second lifting bracket slidably engaged with said second vertical support bracket and supported by said second lifting mechanism;

a first bed bracket sized to support a bed; said bed bracket connected to said first lifting bracket and said second lifting bracket;

a third lifting bracket slidably engaged with said first vertical support bracket;

a fourth lifting bracket slidably engaged with said second vertical support bracket; and,

a second bed bracket sized to support a bed; said second bed bracket connected to said third lifting bracket and said fourth lifting bracket; wherein said second bed bracket is located above said first bed bracket;

a shaft coupled to a top end of said first lifting mechanism and to a top end of said second lifting mechanism for distributing motive force between said first lifting mechanism and said second lifting mechanism; and,

a motor disposed on said bed lifting device so as to drive said first lifting mechanism, said shaft, and said second lifting mechanism;

wherein said first bed bracket is movable between a lowered position within said vehicle and a raised, stowed position within said vehicle.

47. (New) The bed lifting device of claim 46, further comprising:

a first gearbox coupled to a first end of said shaft and said top end of said first lifting mechanism; and

a second gearbox coupled to a second end of said shaft and said top end of said second lifting mechanism.

48. (New) The bed lifting device of claim 47, wherein said motor is coupled to said first gearbox.

49. (New) The bed lifting device of claim 48, wherein said first lifting mechanism and said second lifting mechanism move in unison.

50. (New) The bed lifting device of claim 49, wherein said first lifting mechanism comprises a first acme screw and said second lifting mechanism comprises a second acme screw.

51. (New) The bed lifting device of claim 46, wherein said second bed bracket is uncoupled from said first lifting mechanism and said second lifting mechanism such that movement of said second bed bracket to a raised, stowed position is achieved by said first bed bracket upwardly pushing against said second bracket.

52. (New) A device for lifting a bed between a lowered position and a raised position comprising:

- a first vertical support bracket having an elongated shape;

- a first lifting mechanism disposed along a vertical length of said first vertical support bracket;

- a second support bracket having an elongated shape;

- a second lifting mechanism disposed along a vertical length of said second vertical support bracket;

- a first bed bracket sized to support a bed; said first bed bracket coupled to said first lifting mechanism and said second lifting mechanism to move said bed bracket between a raised position and a lowered position; wherein said first bed bracket is movable between a lowered position and an elevated position;

- a second bed bracket sized to support a bed; said second bed bracket slidably coupled to said first vertical support bracket and to said second vertical support bracket;

wherein said second bed bracket is uncoupled from said first lifting mechanism and said second lifting mechanism in a manor such that movement of said second bed bracket to an elevated position is due to pushing of said first bed bracket upwardly against said second bed bracket; and

a distribution mechanism coupled to a top end of said first lifting mechanism and a top end of said second lifting mechanism for transferring motive force to said first lifting mechanism and said second lifting mechanism.

53. (New) The device of claim 52, wherein said first bed bracket further comprises:

a first mounting bracket slidably engaged with said first vertical support bracket and connected to said first lifting mechanism; and

a second mounting bracket slidably engaged with said second vertical support bracket and connected to said second lifting mechanism.

54. (New) The device of claim 52, wherein said distribution mechanism is a chain coupled to said first lifting mechanism and said second lifting mechanism for distributing a force between said first lifting mechanism and said second lifting mechanism; wherein movement of said chain in a first direction raises said bed bracket and movement of said chain in a second direction lowers said bed bracket.

55. (New) The device of claim 52, wherein said distribution mechanism is a shaft.

56. (New) The device of claim 52, wherein said first lifting mechanism is a first acme screw and said second lifting mechanism is a second acme screw.

57. (New) The device of claim 52, further comprising an elongated flexible support secured to said second bed bracket and said first vertical support.

59. (New) The device of claim 1, further comprising a motor coupled to said distribution mechanism.

60. (New) The device of claim 1, wherein said second bed bracket is located above said first bed bracket, such that said first bed bracket pushes said second bed bracket to an elevated position.

61. (New) The device of claim 1, further comprising:

a shaft;

a first gear box comprising gears operatively coupled to said shaft and a top end of said first lifting mechanism; and

a second gear box comprising gears operatively coupled to said shaft and a top end of said second lifting mechanism;

wherein said shaft synchronizes movement of said first lifting mechanism and said second lifting mechanism.